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No. 1893 P. 1/54

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Karen L. Knudson

<b>APPEAL BRIEF (REPLACEMENT)</b>			<b>Docket No. WIL003USPT01</b>
<b>Serial No.</b> 09/919,534	<b>Filing Date</b> July 31, 2001	<b>Examiner</b> Marc Q. Jimenez	<b>Group Art Unit</b> 3726
<b>Applicant:</b>	Williams		
<b>Invention:</b>	PAINT ROLLER WITH FLEXURE JOINT		

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Dear Sir:

This replacement brief is filed in response to the Notification of Non-Compliance mailed December 8, 2003. This replacement brief incorporates into the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION section of the brief, references to the specification by page and line number and references to the drawings by reference character in compliance with 37 CFR §1.192(c).

This brief is being submitted in triplicate in accordance with 35 C.F.R. 1.192(a).

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in connection with this appeal is the named inventor MaKolle Williams, owner of the entire right, title, and interest in the application.

### RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant and appellant's legal representative are unaware of any other appeal or interference which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

### STATUS OF CLAIMS

The application was filed on July 31, 2001. The application was originally filed with claims 1-28. Claims 6, 10-12 and 17-20 were amended in an Amendment and Response mailed on May 15, 2003. Claims 1-28 remain pending in the application. No claims have been allowed.

The rejection of claims 1-28 is appealed. A copy of the claims involved in this appeal is provided in the Appendix section of this Brief in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.192(c)(9).

### STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment after final was filed in this application.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A First Embodiment of the present claimed invention (claims 1-11) is directed to a paint roller [10] comprising a handle [20], a shaft [30], a functional element [130] secured to a second end [32] of the shaft [30] and a flexure joint [50]. (page 7, lines 7-12). The flexure joint [50] comprises a spherical member [60], a receiving member [80] configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member [60], and a connector [100] in communication with the receiving member [80] to releasably lock the spherical member [60] in position. (page 8, lines 18-20 and page 11, lines 25-29). The flexure joint [50] is interposed

between and connects a second end [22] of the handle [20] and a first end [31] of the shaft [30]. (page 7, lines 10-11). Repositioning of the spherical member [60] as between a first and second locked position is effective for repositioning the shaft [30] relative to the handle [20] as between a first and second locked position. (page 8, lines 18-25).

A Second Embodiment of the present claimed invention (claims 12-28) is directed to a paint roller [10] comprising a handle [20], a shaft [30], a functional element [130] secured to a second end [32] of the shaft [30] and an attachment means [unnumbered] for repositioning the functional element [130] relative to the handle [20]. (page 15, line 29 through page 16, line 3). The attachment means [unnumbered] is interposed between and connects a second end [22] of the handle [20] and a first end [31] of the shaft [30], and is configured to selectively position the functional element [130] relative to the handle [20] by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft [30] relative to the handle [20] in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft [30] relative to the handle [20]. (page 16, lines 1-2, page 11, lines 25-29 and page 13, lines 30-31). The engaged condition can be achieved with the shaft [30] in at least two different positions relative to the handle [20]. (page 20, lines 20-28).

#### ISSUES

1. Whether claims 12-16 are anticipated by Ampian (United States Patent No. 5,207,755) under 35 USC §102(b).
2. Whether claims 1-11 and 17-28 are obvious over Ampian (United States Patent No. 5,207,755) or Cayo (United States Patent No. 3,408,676) in view of Cline (United States Patent No. 3,653,29).

### GROUPING OF CLAIMS

1. The Examiner has finally rejected claims 12-16 as anticipated by Ampian. Rejected claims 12-16 stand or fall together with respect to this rejection.

2. The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-11 and 17-28 as obvious over Ampian or Cayo in view of Cline. It is noted that this rejection is actually two separate rejections (*i.e.*, rejection of claims 1-11 and 17-28 as obvious over Ampian in view of Cline, and rejection of claims 1-11 and 17-28 as obvious over Cayo in view of Cline). Rejected claims 1-11 and 17-28 do not stand or fall together with respect to either of the rejections embodied within this rejection. Claims 1-11 stand or fall separately from claim 17-28 with respect to both of the rejections embodied within this rejection. Claim 1-11 are directed to a paint roller with an attachment between the handle and the functional element which includes a spherical member, a receiving member configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member, and a connector in communication with the receiving member to releasably lock the spherical member in position. Claims 17-28 are directed to a paint roller with an attachment between the handle and the functional element which is configured to selectively position the functional element relative to the handle by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle.

### ARGUMENT

#### *Objections/Rejections*

#### *Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 or 103*

1.0 *The Examiner has rejected claims 12-16 as anticipated by Ampian (U.S. 5,207,755).*

#### SUMMARY OF CITED REFERENCES

Ampian discloses an adjustable paint roller. The roller comprises a roller head, a support arm, a handle, and attachment means interposed between the roller head and the handle. The

attachment means comprises three independent locking mechanisms, each allowing rotation about a single orthogonal axis.

#### SUMMARY OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The Second Embodiment of the present claimed invention (claims 12-28) is directed to a paint roller comprising a handle, a shaft, a functional element secured to a second end of the shaft, and an attachment means for repositioning the functional element relative to the handle. The attachment means is interposed between and connects a second end of the handle and a first end of the shaft and is configured to selectively position the functional element relative to the handle by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle. The engaged condition can be achieved with the shaft in at least two different positions relative to the handle.

#### LEGAL BASIS

An anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that the cited reference(s) disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. *See, Hybritech Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc.*, 231 U.S.P.Q. 81, 90 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *Kloster Speedsteel AB et al. v. Crucible Inc. et al.*, 230 U.S.P.Q. 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986). A reference anticipates a claim only when the reference discloses each and every element recited in the claim. *See, Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987) and M.P.E.P. §2131. Accordingly, the "exclusion of a claimed element from a prior art reference is enough to negate anticipation by that reference." *Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. duPont De Nemours & Co.*, 224 U.S.P.Q. 409, 411 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

A means-plus-function element in a claimed invention must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation in light of and consistent with the written description of the invention in the application. *Id.* citing *In re Donaldson Co.*, 16 F.3d 1189, 1194 (Fed. Cir. 1994). An anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 of a claim containing a means-plus-function element

requires that the cited reference(s) “...(i) performs the function specified in the claim, (ii) not be excluded by any explicit definition provided in the specification for an equivalent, and (iii) be an equivalent of the means- (or step-) plus-function limitation ...” M.P.E.P. §2183 (Rev. 1, Feb 2003). Equivalence may be shown by showing (i) the cited reference’s element performs the identical function specified in the claim in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result, (ii) a person of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the interchangeability of the cited reference element and the corresponding element disclosed in the specification, (iii) there are insubstantial differences between the cited reference element and the corresponding element disclosed in the specification, or (iv) the cited reference element is a structural equivalent of the claimed element disclosed in the specification. Id.

AMPIAN DOES NOT DISCLOSE EACH AND  
EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIMED INVENTION

Ampian discloses an adjustable paint roller with an attachment means between the roller head and the handle which includes three independent locking mechanisms, each allowing rotation about a single orthogonal axis.

The attachment means in the Second Embodiment of claimed invention is a means-plus-function element under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶6 (i.e.; “... *attachment means interposed between and connecting the second end of the handle and the first end of the shaft which is configured to selectively position the functional element relative to the handle by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle, wherein the engaged condition can be achieved with the shaft in at least two different positions relative to the handle.*”). A means-plus-function element in a claimed invention must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation in light of and consistent with the written description of the invention in the application. Id. citing In re Donaldson Co., 16 F.3d 1189, 1194 (Fed. Cir. 1994). An anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 of a claim containing a means-plus-function element requires that the cited reference(s) “...(i) performs the function specified in the claim, (ii) not be excluded by any explicit definition provided in the specification for an equivalent, and

(iii) be an equivalent of the means- (or step-) plus-function limitation ...” M.P.E.P. §2183 (Rev. 1, Feb 2003). Equivalence may be shown by showing (i) the cited reference’s element performs the identical function specified in the claim in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result, (ii) a person of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the interchangeability of the cited reference element and the corresponding element disclosed in the specification, (iii) there are insubstantial differences between the cited reference element and the corresponding element disclosed in the specification, or (iv) the cited reference element is a structural equivalent of the claimed element disclosed in the specification. Id.

The specification of the present application discloses a structure and acts for achieving the function. The structure disclosed in the application is a flexure joint which includes a spherical member or its equivalent, a receiving member configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member, and a connector. See, page 3, lines 4-6 of the present application. The disclosed structure allows repositioning of the functional element relevant to the handle in two degrees of freedom with a single mechanism. Accordingly, the structure of Ampian does NOT perform the claimed repositioning function in substantially the same way as the structure of the claimed invention, and therefore, does not disclose an equivalent attachment means. Hence, Ampian does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

*2.0 The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 17-28 as obvious over Ampian (U.S. 5,207,755) or Cayo (U.S. 3,408,676) in view of Cline (U.S. 365,329).*

#### SUMMARY OF CITED REFERENCES

Ampian discloses an adjustable paint roller. The roller comprises a roller head, a support arm, a handle; and attachment means interposed between the roller head and the handle. The attachment means comprises three independent locking mechanisms, each allowing rotation about a single orthogonal axis.

Cayo discloses an angularly adjustable and frictionally held handle for paint rollers. The device comprises a roller head, a support arm, a handle, and attachment means. The disclosed

attachment means is a circular friction plate which allows repositioning and locking of the roller head about a single axis.

Cline discloses an attachment means for a brush or pump handle which comprising a ball and joint mechanism which allows movement of a brush head relative to a handle about a single axis. Briefly, the distal ends of the splint shank [A] are positioned proximate the shaft [I] extending from the ball [F] such that the shaft [I] may only move within the plane defined by the gap between the two parts [B] and [C] of the split shank [A]. This restriction in movement of the shaft [I] restricts rotation of the ball [F] about a single axis (i.e., a transverse axis orthogonal to the gap between the two parts [B] and [C] of the split shank [A]). Cline does not disclose whether the attachment can be locked so as to prevent movement about the single axis.

#### SUMMARY OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The First Embodiment of the present claimed invention (claims 1-11) is directed to a paint roller comprising a handle, a shaft, a functional element secured to a second end of the shaft and a flexure joint. The flexure joint comprises a spherical member, a receiving member configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member, and a connector in communication with the receiving member to releasably lock the spherical member in position. The flexure joint is interposed between and connects a second end of the handle and a first end of the shaft. Repositioning of the spherical member as between a first and second locked position is effective for repositioning the shaft relative to the handle as between a first and second locked position.

The Second Embodiment of the present claimed invention (claims 12-28) is directed to a paint roller comprising a handle, a shaft, a functional element secured to a second end of the shaft and an attachment means for repositioning the functional element relative to the handle. The attachment means is interposed between and connects a second end of the handle and a first end of the shaft, and is configured to selectively position the functional element relative to the handle by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft



relative to the handle. The engaged condition can be achieved with the shaft in at least two different positions relative to the handle.

#### LEGAL BASIS

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation; either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, NOT in applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See, M.P.E.P. § 2143.

#### AMPIAN, CAYO AND CLINE DO NOT DISCLOSE EACH AND EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIMED INVENTION

##### *First Embodiment*

Ampian discloses an adjustable paint roller with an attachment means between the roller head and the handle which includes three independent locking mechanisms, each of which allows the roller head to be rotated about a single axis. Cayo discloses an adjustable paint roller with an attachment means between the roller head and the handle which allows repositioning and locking of the roller head about a single axis. Cline discloses a brush handle attachment comprising a ball and joint mechanism which allows rotation of a brush head about a single axis, without any disclosure as to whether such attachment can be locked so as to prevent movement about the single axis. Ampian, Cayo and Cline do not disclose an attachment including a connector in communication with a receiving member for releasably locking a spherical member in position.

### ***Second Embodiment***

Ampian discloses an adjustable paint roller with an attachment means between the roller head and the handle which includes three independent locking mechanisms, each of which allows the roller head to be rotated about a single axis. Cayo discloses an adjustable paint roller with an attachment means between the roller head and the handle which allows repositioning and locking of the roller head about a single axis. Cline discloses a brush handle attachment which allows rotation of a brush about a single axis. Ampian, Cayo and Cline do not disclose an attachment which allows repositioning of a functional element relevant to a handle in two degrees of freedom with a single mechanism.

### ***THE AMPIAN, CAYO, AND CLINE REFERENCES DO NOT PROVIDE A MOTIVATION TO COMBINE THE TEACHINGS OF THE REFERENCES***

In order to prevent a hindsight-based obviousness analysis, the relevant inquiry for determining the scope and content of the prior art is whether there is a reason, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art or elsewhere that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references. *See, In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1359, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1459 (Fed. Cir. 1998) ("[T]he Board must identify specifically ... the reasons one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the references and to combine them to render the claimed invention obvious."); *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999) ("Our case law makes clear that the best defense against the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis is rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references.") Obviousness may not be established by merely showing that the separate elements of the invention existed in the prior art. There must be some teaching or suggestion in the prior art to combine the elements. *Arkie Lures, Inc. v. Gene Larew Tackle, Inc.*, 119 F.3d 953, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d 1294, (Fed. Cir. 1997). While the references need not expressly teach that the disclosure contained therein should be combined with another, the showing of combinability must be "clear and particular." *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d at 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1617. *See also, Motorola, Inc. v. Interdigital Tech. Corp.*, 121 F.3d 1461, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d 1481 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

### ***First Embodiment***

Ampian teaches and discloses three separate mechanisms for repositioning and locking a functional element of a paint roller relative to its handle along each of three orthogonal axis. Cayo teaches and discloses a single mechanism for repositioning and locking a functional element relative to a handle about a single axis. Cline teaches and discloses a brush handle attachment comprising a ball and joint mechanism which allows swiveling of a brush head relative to a handle, without any disclosure as to whether such attachment can be locked so as to prevent swiveling of the brush head. The First Embodiment of the present claimed invention has an attachment including a spherical member, a receiving member configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member, and a connector in communication with the receiving member to releasably lock the spherical member in position. Ampian, Cayo and Cline do NOT provide any motivation to those persons skilled in the art to combine the disparate teachings of these references to achieve such an attachment mechanism. Specifically, no motivation is provided in the prior art to selectively incorporate a locking mechanism from Ampian or Cayo into the ball and joint mechanism of Cline. It is only through the use of forbidden hindsight that a motivation is found to combine these selective features from these references.

### ***Second Embodiment***

Ampian teaches and discloses three separate mechanisms for repositioning and locking a functional element of a paint roller relative to its handle along each of three orthogonal axis. Cayo teaches and discloses a single mechanism for repositioning and locking a functional element relative to a handle about a single axis. Cline teaches and discloses a mechanism permitting swiveling of a brush head relative to a handle within a single plane, without any reference to whether the mechanism can be locked to prevent swiveling of the brush head. The Second Embodiment of the present claimed invention has a single attachment mechanism that permits repositioning and locking of a functional element about at least three axis. Ampian, Cayo and Cline do NOT provide any motivation to those persons skilled in the art to combine the teachings of these references to achieve such an attachment mechanism. Specifically, no motivation is provided in the prior art to modify Cline to permit swiveling about more than one axis, and then selectively

incorporate a locking mechanism from Ampian or Cayo into the modified ball and joint mechanism of Cline. It is only through the use of forbidden hindsight that a motivation is found to combine selective features from these references.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims (claims 1-28) are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

30 Dec 03

By

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**APPENDIX****PENDING CLAIMS**

*United States Patent Application  
Serial No. 09/919,534*

1. A paint roller, comprising:
  - (a) a handle having a first end and a second end;
  - (b) a shaft having a first end and a second end;
  - (c) a functional element secured to the second end of the shaft;
  - (d) a flexure joint interposed between and connecting the second end of the handle and the first end of the shaft, which includes:
    - (i) a spherical member;
    - (ii) a receiving member configured and arranged to maintain and selectively engage the spherical member, and
    - (iii) a connector in communication with the receiving member for releasably locking the spherical member in position as between at least a first locked position and a second locked position relative to the receiving member, and
  - (e) whereby repositioning of the spherical member as between the first and second locked positions is effective for repositioning the shaft relative to the handle as between a first locked position and a second locked position.
2. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein the functional element is a tube-receiving frame rotatably secured to the second end of the shaft
3. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein the spherical member is connected to the first end of the shaft and the receiving member is connected to the second end of the handle.
4. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein the spherical member is connected to the second end of the handle and the receiving member is connected to the first end of the shaft.

5. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein the connector is hand operable for locking and releasing the spherical member.
6. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein (i) the spherical member has a radius, (ii) the receiving member includes first and second transversely spaced opposing arms, (iii) the first arm has an inner surface facing the second arm and defines a depression having a circular periphery in the inner surface, (iv) the depression has a radius which is smaller than the radius of the spherical member, and (v) the spherical member is sandwiched between the first and second arms and centered within the depression defined by the first arm.
7. The paint roller of claim 1, wherein (i) the spherical member has a radius, (ii) the receiving member includes first and second transversely spaced opposing arms, (iii) the first arm has an inner surface facing the second arm and defines a depression having a circular periphery in the inner surface of the first arm, (iv) the second arm has an inner surface facing the first arm and defines a depression having a circular periphery in the inner surface of the second arm, (v) the depression in the first arm and the depression in the second arm are axially aligned, (vi) the depressions have radii which are smaller than the radius of the spherical member, and (vii) the spherical member is sandwiched between the first and second arms and centered within both depressions.
8. The paint roller of claim 6, wherein the depression in the first arm is an aperture extending completely through the first arm.
9. The paint roller of claim 7, wherein the depression in the first arm is an aperture extending completely through the first arm and the depression in the second arm is an aperture extending completely through the second arm.
10. The paint roller of claim 6, wherein the connector has a proximal end and a distal end with the distal end slidably extending through a bore in one arm and threadably engaging the other arm with the proximal end configured and arranged to engage the one arm so as

to prevent passage of the connector completely through the bore, whereby tightening of the connector pulls the arms together so as to lock the spherical member into position relative to the receiving member and loosening of the connector allows the arms to separate so as to permit repositioning of the spherical member relative to the receiving member.

11. The paint roller of claim 7, wherein the connector has a proximal end and a distal end with the distal end slidingly extending through a bore in one arm and threadably engaging the other arm with the proximal end configured and arranged to engage the one arm so as to prevent passage of the connector completely through the bore, whereby tightening of the connector pulls the arms together so as to lock the spherical member into position relative to the receiving member and loosening of the connector allows the arms to separate so as to permit repositioning of the spherical member relative to the receiving member.
12. A paint roller, comprising:
  - (a) a handle having a first end and a second end;
  - (b) a shaft having a first end and a second end;
  - (c) a functional element secured to the second end of the shaft; and
  - (d) attachment means interposed between and connecting the second end of the handle and the first end of the shaft which is configured to selectively position the functional element relative to the handle by providing a disengaged condition permitting repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle in at least two degrees of freedom, and an engaged condition preventing repositioning of the shaft relative to the handle, wherein the engaged condition can be achieved with the shaft in at least two different positions relative to the handle.
13. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein the functional element is a tube-receiving frame rotatably secured to the second end of the shaft

14. The paint roller of claim 12 wherein (i) the handle has a longitudinal axis extending through the first and second ends of the handle, and (ii) shaft can be angularly repositioned relative to the axis of the handle through at least 60° in at least one direction.
15. The paint roller of claim 12 wherein (i) the handle has a longitudinal axis extending through the first and second ends of the handle, and (ii) shaft can be angularly repositioned relative to the axis of the handle through at least 120° in at least one direction.
16. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein the attachment means is hand operable for switching between the engaged and disengaged conditions.
17. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein (i) the attachment means includes at least (A) a spherical member radially rotatably connected to the first end of the shaft, and (B) a receiving member connected to the second end of the handle, and (ii) the paint roller further comprises a locking mechanism effective in a disengaged condition for permitting rotational repositioning of the shaft relative to the spherical member and effective in an engaged position for locking the shaft in a rotated position relative to the spherical member as between at least a first locked rotated position and a second locked rotated position.
18. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein (i) the handle defines a longitudinal axis extending through the first and second ends of the handle, (ii) the attachment means includes at least (A) a spherical member connected to the first end of the shaft, and (B) a receiving member rotatably connected to the second end of the handle with rotation occurring about the longitudinal axis defined by the handle, and (iii) the paint roller further comprises a locking mechanism effective in a disengaged condition for permitting rotational repositioning of the handle relative to the receiving member and effective in an engaged position for locking the handle in a rotated position relative to the receiving member as between at least a first locked rotated position and a second locked rotated position.



19. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein (i) the attachment means includes at least (A) a spherical member radially rotatably connected to the second end of the handle, and (B) a receiving member connected to the first end of the shaft, and (ii) the paint roller further comprises a locking mechanism effective in a disengaged condition for permitting rotational repositioning of the handle relative to the spherical member and effective in an engaged position for locking the handle in a rotated position relative to the spherical member as between at least a first locked rotated position and a second locked rotated position
20. The paint roller of claim 12, wherein (i) the first end portion of the shaft defines a longitudinal axis, (ii) the attachment means includes at least (A) a spherical member connected to the second end of the handle, and (B) a receiving member rotatably connected to the first end of the shaft with rotation occurring about the longitudinal axis defined by the first end portion of the shaft, and (iii) the paint roller further comprises a locking mechanism effective in a disengaged condition for permitting rotational repositioning of the shaft relative to the receiving member and effective in an engaged position for locking the shaft in a rotated position relative to the receiving member as between at least a first locked rotated position and a second locked rotated position.
21. The paint roller of claim 17, wherein the shaft is rotatable 360° relative to the spherical member.
22. The paint roller of claim 17, wherein the locking mechanism is hand operable for switching between the engaged and disengaged conditions.
23. The paint roller of claim 18, wherein the handle is rotatable 360° relative to the receiving member.
24. The paint roller of claim 18, wherein the locking mechanism is hand operable for switching between the engaged and disengaged conditions.

25. The paint roller of claim 19, wherein the handle is rotatable 360° relative to the spherical member.
26. The paint roller of claim 19, wherein the locking mechanism is hand operable for switching between the engaged and disengaged conditions.
27. The paint roller of claim 20, wherein the shaft is rotatable 360° relative to the receiving member.
28. The paint roller of claim 20, wherein the locking mechanism is hand operable for switching between the engaged and disengaged conditions.